

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 2-4 and 9-20 without prejudice or admission and amend claim 7 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. - 6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine comprising:

an operation rod;

a cutter blade mounted to the front end of the operation rod for undergoing rotation;

a prime mover mounted to the rear end of the operation rod for rotationally driving the cutter blade;

a throttle lever pivotally mounted with respect to the operation rod for controlling an opening degree of a throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade;

a link mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever to adjust the degree of opening of the throttle valve of the prime mover ~~and to release the brake unit from a braking condition;~~ and

a single piece of throttle cable extending between the throttle lever and the brake unit;

wherein the link mechanism is disposed midway of the single piece of throttle cable so that the control of the opening degree of the throttle valve and the release of the brake unit from the braking condition are achieved by manipulation of the single piece of throttle cable.

8. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 7; wherein the link mechanism serves as a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

9. - 20. (canceled).